

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
TRSE-00 OMB-01 MCT-01 HA-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 /080 W
-----085104 031249Z /72

O R 031032Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7038
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0641

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SWAPO LEADERS LEAVE NAMIBIA

1. THE SUNDAY TIMES OF APRIL 2 REPORTS THAT THREE TOP
LEADERS OF INTERNAL SWAPO, TAUNO HATUIKULIPI (TREASURER),
MOKGANEDI TLHABANELLO (PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION SECRETARY),
AND MARTHA FORD (WOMEN'S COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE
SWAPO NATIONAL EXECUTIVE) HAVE LEFT THE TERRITORY.
HATUIKULIPI AND FORD ARE REPORTED TO BE IN GABORONE.
ALTHOUGH NOT REPORTED BY THE TIMES, SWAPO LEADER
DANIEL TJONGARERO ALSO LEFT THE TERRITORY ON APRIL 1,
ABOARD THE SAME PLANE OUT OF WINDHOEK AS REPRESENTATIVES
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OF THE CONTACT GROUP. TJONGARERO TOLD US HE WAS
ON HIS WAY TO GENEVA, OSTENSIBLY ON BUSINESS FOR
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT,
FOR WHICH HE WORKS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE SUNDAY TIMES, THE SWAPO LEADERS
FLED THE TERRITORY AS THE RESULT OF HERERO DEATH

THREATS AGAINST SWAPO LEADERS TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF CLEMENS KAPUUNO. THESE THREATS WERE REPORTED TO EXTEND NOT ONLY TO INTERNAL SWAPO LEADERS, BUT ALSO TO EXTERNAL LEADERS, INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY SAM NUJOMA. TJONGARERO, HIMSELF A HERERO AND A NEPHEW OF KAPUUNO, WAS VISIBLY UNEASY DURING A PRIVATE MEETING WITH EMBOFF MARCH 29, AND MENTIONED AT THAT TIME THAT THERE HAD BEEN DEATH THREATS AGAINST THREE SWAPO LEADERS. HE ADDED THAT HE INTENDED TO LIE LOW FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS.

3. AN OFFICIAL AT SWAPO HEADQUARTERS IN WINDHOEK CONFIRMED FOR US TODAY, APRIL 3, THAT THE FOUR LEADERS HAD LEFT THE TERRITORY. HE INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WERE NOT "RUNNING AWAY" BUT ON "A MISSION", AND WOULD RETURN. HE ADDED THAT THERE ARE NO PLANS TO ELECT NEW LEADERS.

4. COMMENT: SWAPO LEADERS MAY ALSO FEAR POSSIBLE SAG CRACKDOWN IN THE NEAR FUTURE, INCLUDING ARREST OF A NUMBER OF INTERNAL SWAPO LEADERS.

5. FOR GABORONE: HATUIKULIPI, AND ESPECIALLY TLHABANELLO, IF HE IS ALSO THERE, ARE NORMALLY OPEN AND EASILY APPROACHABLE. IF OPPORTUNITY ARISES YOU MAY WISH TO SOUND THEM OUT ON THEIR "MISSION" TO BOTSWANA.
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BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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